

1-1-2012

Adjust Composting Limits for Farms

Maine Department of Environmental Protection

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Recommended Citation

Maine Department of Environmental Protection, "Adjust Composting Limits for Farms" (2012). *Environmental Protection Documents*. Paper 48.

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STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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January 1, 2012

Senator Roger L. Sherman, Co-Chair
Representative Peter E. Edgecomb; Co-Chair
Members of the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee
100 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0100

Dear Senator Sherman, Representative Edgecomb and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry:

I am pleased to provide you with this report pursuant to Resolve 2011, Chapter 60, *Resolve, To Adjust Composting Limits for Farms*, as enacted by the 125th Legislature First Regular Session. As requested in section 1 of the Resolve the Department is currently in the rulemaking process amending Chapter 410 to increase the maximum cubic yards limits of Type IB and Type IC residuals that a farm may compost in any 30- day period. The rule was adopted on 12/6/2011 and is currently waiting adoption approval and the approval of the Attorney General Office sometime in February 2012.

Section 2 of the Resolve requested that the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources and the Commissioner of Environmental Protection shall report to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry with recommendations for statutory changes needed to clarify or enhance oversight of agricultural composting operations by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, specifically Chapter 410, Section 1, Paragraph B, Subparagraphs (4), (5), (6) and (7). Subparagraph (4) was addressed with the changes requested in section 1 of this Resolve. The Department of Environmental Protection has reviewed sections (5), (6) and (7) and feels that these sections need no statutory changes at this time since these sections require a facility to have a Compost Management Plan that has been approved by Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources.

If you have any questions or would like me to present this report to the committee, I am available at your request and convenience. You can reach me at 287-7890 or at ron.dyer@maine.gov.

Sincerely,

Ron Dyer
Bureau Director, Remediation and Waste Management

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